



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

**For immediate release:**  
October 29, 2007

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### **Virginians ready to take on their communities**

*AmeriCorps swearing in ceremony Oct. 31 kicks off year of volunteer service*

**Abingdon, Va.** – Interviews and photo opportunities are available for the following event:

- WHO:** Honorable Reverend Anderson Clary  
Chairman, Governor's Commission on Community and National Service  
Pastor, Queen Street Baptist Church, Hampton, Va.
- Perry D. Martin  
Commission Member, Governor's Commission on Community and National Service  
Assistant Director, Service Learning, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.
- Pastor Herber Scott  
Commission Member, Governor's Commission on Community and National Service  
Pastor, Morning Star Church, Castlewood, Va.
- AmeriCorps members and staff
- WHAT:** Virginians ready to serve their communities as AmeriCorps members will be sworn in during a ceremony at Virginia Highlands Community College. The ceremony is held each fall to introduce new AmeriCorps members embarking on a year of service to the Commonwealth.
- Virginia AmeriCorps members who were nominated for the first-ever Robert E. Wone Award for Exemplary Service will be honored at the ceremony. The Robert E. Wone Award has been established in memory of Robert E. Wone, a former member of the Governor's Commission on Community and National Service. The award recognizes an AmeriCorps member who has exhibited outstanding civic engagement and community service. The winner of this year's award is Cheryl Jennings of Hampton, Va.
- WHERE:** Virginia Highlands Community College Campus  
One Partnership Circle  
Abingdon, Virginia

WHEN: October 31, 2007  
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHY: AmeriCorps is a network of service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of up to \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than **4,700** Virginia residents have qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **\$17,200,000**.

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*Editor's Note: For more information on AmeriCorps programs in Virginia, visit [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org). To arrange interviews, contact Carla Harris at (804) 726-7107 or Kimberly Brown at (804) 726-7069.*